When I entered the theaters for Act of Valor, I was more excited than I had ever been for the premier of a movie. I am a sucker for war movies like *Saving Private Ryan* and *Blackhawk Down*, so when I saw the trailer for this movie I knew it was something I had to see.

The movie portrays active duty Navy SEALs as the characters in the movie, which allowed the directors to go much further with the realism of the movie, as far as tactics go.

The small squad of SEALs connects a school bombing in Indonesia, a kidnapping in Costa Rica, meetings in the Ukraine and Somalia, and suicide bombers tunneling into the United States from Mexico. Everywhere you look, there are shady foreigners conspiring against us.

During their chase around the world to find the masterminds behind this plan, we get to see the SEALs use weapons and technology currently at work in the U.S. military. We become one with the warrior when the director uses helmet cams to show what the soldiers see.

The movie did not have the emotional attachment that was felt in films such as *Restrepo* and *Saving Private Ryan,* but the battle scenes were authentic to an extent.

Although different, *Act of Valor* has its own feel to it. The way the men move through combat, the sheer technical mastery that they display is awesome. Halfway through the movie you are almost cheering every time a bad guy is dispatched by a squad of SEALs.

The argument can be made that not a lot works in the movie as an actual film; at some points it seems as though it is just a shapeless propaganda flick. However, so much of the movie has never been done before, the live ammunition, bombs, and rockets. For true action and war movie fans, it is worth shelling out ten bucks to go see.